

Message Text

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ACTION SIG-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 /017 W
-----058863 191555Z /47

O 191413Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5409

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAGUA 0230

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AMGT, NU
SUBJECT: POST RESPONSE TO FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: INSPECTION REPORT JUNE 1977 - MANAGUA

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS FOLLOWING JUNE 1977 INSPECTION OF MANAGUA (NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES ARE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION IDENTIFICATIONS IN INSPECTION REPORT:

3.6-1 - THE POLITICAL/LABOR OFFICER WAS DESIGNATED AS GRAPHICS CO-ORDINATOR BY ANNOUNCEMENT DATED MAY 26, 1977. THE INSTRUCTIONS AND EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRAPHICS PROGRAM HAVE JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM INR/OIL/B/NIC.

4.6-1 - THE SOLE AMERICAN SECRETARY IN THE POLITICAL SECTION SUPPORTS TWO OFFICERS. A LOCAL EMPLOYEE CANNOT REPLACE HER, EVEN TEMPORILY, FOR SECURITY REASONS. TO CAUSE THE AMERICAN SECRETARY IN THE POLITICAL SECTION TO RELOCATE FOR ANY PORTION OF EACH DAY TO THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION CREATES NEW PROBLEMS IN THE POLITICAL SECTION. THE FSL SECRETARY CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE ECON/COMMERCIAL OCCUPIES THE ONLY PROGRAM COMPLEMENT SECRETARIAL POSITION IN THE U.S. MISSION. ONE OTHER FSL SECRETARY POSITION (SHARED) IS IN THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, AND THE INCUMBENT IS FULLY OCCUPIED. A REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN SECRETARY POSITION WAS INCLUDED IN FY 1978 BUDGET DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN MAY 1977
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AND THE POST BELIEVES THE POSITION IS STILL NEEDED.

4.6-2 - FOR FY 78 THE EMBASSY HAS ALLOCATED SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION FOR UPGRADING THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

5.6-2 - CONTROLS OVER ENTRY TO THE CONSULAR SECTION'S WORKING AREA

HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED TO RESTRICT ACCESS BY PERSONS NOT EMPLOYED IN THE SECTION.

5.6-3 - A CONSULAR DUTY ROSTER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE CONSULAR SECTION HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF THE MISSION GENERAL DUTY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES IN ORDER TO PERMIT DEDICATION OF CONSULAR RESOURCES TO CONSULAR MATTERS.

5.6-4 - SPACE IN EMBASSY MANAGUA, WHICH OCCUPIES A TEMPORARY STRUCTURE, IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. NONETHELESS, A PLACE FOR SAFE-GUARDING THE EFFECTS OF DECEASED AMERICAN CITIZENS HAS ROUTINELY BEEN PROVIDED IN THE EMBASSY'S SECURE C&R SECTION AND CONTINUES TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5.6-5 - THE CONSULAR SECTION'S FILE OF CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT AIRGRAMS HAS BEEN UPDATED IS NOW COMPLETE.

7.6-1 - EMBASSY MANAGUA BY ITS TELEGRAM 2427, TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE INSPECTION, ON MAY 23, 1977, RESPONDED TO THE TWO TELEGRAMS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

7.6-2 -AND 7.6-3 - THE EMBASSY AGREES THAT THE RECOMMENDED RE-DESIGNATIONS ARE DESIRABLE AND THAT THE TASKS PERFORMED BY THE INCUMBENTS OF MAL-49 COULD BE DONE BY CONTRACT CHARFORCE. (THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IMPROPER TO HAVE THE SAME TASKS PERFORMED BY "EXISTING MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL", SINCE THIS WOULD RESULT IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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MISUSE OF SKILLED MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS FOR JANITORIAL WORK.) THE PROBLEM IN COMPLYING WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IS THAT THE INCUMBENT OF MAL-49 HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SINCE JULY 2, 1956 AND IS CURRENTLY UNDER CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT AND THE INCUMBENT OF MAL-50 HAS BEEN EMPLOYED SINCE FEBRUARY 15, 1960 AND ALSO HAS CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT STATUS. WE FORESEE SIGNIFICANT MORALE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS ARISING UNLESS AN EQUITABLE MEANS OF MOVING THESE PEOPLE FROM DIRECT-HIRE TO CONTRACT STATUS CAN BE FOUND. THE EMBASSY IS, HOWEVER, CONTINUING TO SEEK TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION POSSIBLE.

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7.6-4 - THE POSITION WAS INITIALLY VACATED WHEN THE INCUMBENT RETIRED VOLUNTARILY IN MARCH, 1976. IT WAS RE-FILLED THAT SAME MONTH. ON AUGUST 16, 1976 THAT INCUMBENT RESIGNED AND THE CURRENT INCUMBENT WAS SELECTED AND ENTERED ON DUTY ON NOVEMBER 8, 1976 IN THE PROPERTY, SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE UNIT. THE POSITION WAS SHIFTED TEMPORARILY TO THE TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION, CUSTOMS, SHIPPING UNIT WHEN THE CHIEF OF THAT UNIT RESIGNED UNEXPECTEDLY AND INTERNAL REALIGNMENTS WERE REQUIRED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SERVICE TO THE MISSION UNTIL THE SENIOR VACANCY COULD BE FILLED. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO KEEP THIS POSITION IN THE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION SECTION UNTIL A NEW EMPLOYEE IS FULLY TRAINED, AND THEN RETURN IT TO THE PROPERTY, SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE UNIT WHERE IT IS URGENTLY NEEDED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE STAFFING HAS REMAINED CONSTANT SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1972 IN SPITE OF DRAMATIC INCREASES IN SERVICED POPULATION AND WORKLOAD. AID AMERICAN AND LOCAL STAFFING, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS. IT HAS ONLY BEEN THROUGH INTERNAL REALIGNMENT THAT GSO HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL SERVICES WITHOUT INCREASING STAFF BY EVEN ONE POSITION.

7.6-5 - IN FEBRUARY 1977, THE REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE AGREED TO PROVIDE AN ASR TELETYPE UNIT FOR THE PURPOSE RECOMMENDED. EMBASSY'S A-51, SCHEDULE 1C, DATED MAY 11, 1977, REQUESTED FUNDS AND RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL STAFF TO OPERATE THIS UNIT. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE TELETYPE UNIT AND FSL STAFF IN THE UNCLASSIFIED MAIL ROOM HAVE BEEN HANDLING MOST ASPECTS OF UNCLASSIFIED CABLE TRAFFIC.

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7.6-6 - EMBASSY CONCURS FULLY WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION AND HAS REQUESTED THAT FBO AND ARA MANAGEMENT SEND A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT A TEAM WILL BE COMING TO MANAGUA FOR THIS PURPOSE IN FEBRUARY 1978.

7-6-7 A THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER CONDUCTED A FULL SECURITY SURVEY OF THE POST BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 12 AND 16, 1977. AT THE POST'S REQUEST, AND IN ACCORD WITH THE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE RSO PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ADEQUACY OF SECURITY OF THE USAID BUILDING AND THE CONSULAR SECTION. REGARDING THE FORMER, A CLOSED CIR-

CUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) MONITORING UNIT HAS BEEN INSTALLED TO PROVIDE MARINE SECURITY GUARD OBSERVATION OF THE USAID ENTRANCE FROM EMBASSY POST #1. THE RSO HAS RECOMMENDED AND THE POST ENDORSED THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL MARINE SECURITY GUARD TO MANAGUA TO COVER THE USAID ENTRANCE. CONSULAR SECTION SECURITY WILL BE ENHANCED BY INSTALLATION OF A CLEAR GLASS PANEL IN AN EXISTING WALL, WHICH WILL PERMIT THE MARINE GUARD AT POST #1 TO OBSERVE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SECTION.

7.6-8 - A COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING PLAN FOR THE CHANCERY SITE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBO. OUR FIRST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WILL COMMENCE IN FEBRUARY 1978.

8.6-1 - EMBASSY MANAGUA IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME.

11.6A-1 - (A) IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE AMERICAN- NICARAGUAN SCHOOL HAS MADE AVAILABLE AUDIT REPORTS PREPARED BY THE FIRM OF DONKIN AND ARGUELLO, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, DATED MAY 31,1975 AND MAY 31, 1976 COVERING THE AMERICAN-NICARAGUAN SCHOOL. THE EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED THOSE REPORTS TO A/OS.
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(B) THE AMERICAN-NICARAGUAN SCHOOL HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS WILL BE TRANSMITTED ON TIME AND THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.

11.6B-1 - (A) THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ASSOCIATION CHARTER IS CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED AND UPDATED.

(B) ALL ASSOCIATION ASSETS ARE COVERED AGAINST FIRE AND THEFT UNDER A POLICY PROVIDED BY INMOBILIARIA DE SEGUROS, S.A. WRITTEN ON MARCH 29, 1977 AND EFFECTIVE THROUGH MARCH 28, 1978.

(A) APPARENTLY THIS RECOMMENDATION STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT A NEWLY EMPLOYED COMMISSARY EMPLOYEE WAS UNABLE TO LOCK THE SAFE IN WHICH SUCH ITEMS ARE STORED. THE MATTER WAS RESOLVED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE INSPECTORS.

11.6B-2 - USMILGP HAS REDUCED ITS "COMMISSARY" OPERATIONS TO A CONSOLIDATED ORDERING SERVICE FROM THE U.S. ARMY QUARTERMASTER COMMISSARY IN THE CANAL ZONE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS IS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE OPERATION OF AN EMBASSY ASSOCIATION FACILITY AND ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS JUSTIFIED.

11.6B-3 - EMBASSY CONCURS IN AND ENDORSES THIS RECOMMENDATION AND IS TAKING THE NECESSARY ACTION TO MERGE SNACK BAR OPERATIONS INTO EMBASSY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES.

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